

and Spanish pepper are brought thither in masses, fruits of all kinds, according to the season and locality, oranges, apples, pears, peaches, bananas, pine-apples etc. Fruit is a necessary of life for the Mexican, every labourer lays in a stock on Sunday, so that he may have his orange every day, or his *chirimoya*. Meanwhile the first provisional diggings are increased and replaced by more substantial ones, a foundry is erected near the brook, whole strings of mules come and go, laden partly with building-materials, partly with provisions, returning with ore. Rows of small cottages are now ready for the workmen, larger ones start up for the overseers, and in less than two months several hundred families are settled. On Sunday they desire to hoar mass, and as it is well paid for, the nearest priest comes, even though the distance should be twenty or thirty miles. At first divine service is performed in the open air, and at the same time the foundation stone of a little chapel is laid. Should the mine continue to supply rich ore, galleries are soon run in various directions, fresh mines are sought after and opened, so that the population continues to increase. The amount of money in circulation is extraordinary, and although every necessary of life is exceedingly dear, no one objects, as the requisite funds are so easily obtained. The scum of society is soon well represented, professed gamblers, usurers, thieves and fences; necessity calls forth laws, and the choice of a magistrate introduces something like order. Should energetic men obtain the upper hand, who insist on purifying the society, the best foundation for the future welfare of the settlement is laid.

In the course of a year, a rich mine will often assemble a population of several thousand persons. Traffic is the first adjunct of mining, and subsequently when the required workshops for carrying on the enterprise are well established, agriculture begins to be thought of. Every little valley, capable of cultivation, every gentle slope is planted, so that, at least, the most indispensable vegetables may be near at hand. Flocks of goats clamber about the rocks, and oxen are fattened for the shambles in enclosed pastures.

No branch of labour is so well calculated as mining to assemble the various classes of society. Trade and commerce, agriculture and cattle-breeding appear first as ministering agents, in order to furnish the population labouring in the bowels of the earth with the necessaries of life. The miners, however, bring forth the *nervus rerum*, which, like a powerful magnet, attracts and animates. At length come the arts and sciences, bestowing civilisation on the shapeless mass, producing order in the chaos, introducing mind into that which could hitherto be regarded as matter only. Shooting up overnight like a huge fungus, a mining-town affords us an image of the organic life of human society, elsewhere developing itself slowly, but according to the same laws.

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